

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle comprising
5 a vehicle frame having at least one vertically oriented side frame member;
a transmission housing mounted to the side frame member;
a hydrostatic transmission mounted in the transmission housing and comprising a
hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor connected through a hydraulic circuit; and
an axle shaft driven by the hydraulic motor and extending perpendicular to the vertical
10 frame member.
2. A vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising two vertically oriented side frame
members, wherein the transmission housing is secured to one of the side frame members.
3. A vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the transmission housing is secured to the side
frame member by at least one bracket.
- 15 4. A vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the transmission housing comprises at least one
boss for securing the transmission housing to the side frame member.
5. A vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising a control arm engaged to the
hydrostatic transmission and located between the transmission housing and the side frame
member.
- 20 6. The vehicle as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a combustion engine for driving the
hydraulic motor and a snow throwing auger driven by the combustion engine.
7. The vehicle as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a center section having porting, a
pump running surface on which the hydraulic pump rotates and a motor running surface on
which the hydraulic motor rotates.

8. The vehicle as recited in Claim 7, further comprising a motor shaft driven by the hydraulic motor, wherein the motor shaft has a longitudinal axis that is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the axle shaft.

9. A vehicle comprising:

- 5 a vehicle frame having at least one vertically oriented side frame member;
a transmission housing mounted between and secured to the side frame member;
a hydrostatic transmission mounted in the transmission housing and comprising a hydraulic pump and a control mechanism for controlling the output of the hydraulic pump; and
a control arm having an first portion located inside the transmission housing and engaged
10 to the control mechanism and an second portion located between the transmission housing and the side frame member.

10. A vehicle as set forth in Claim 9, wherein the control mechanism comprises a rotatable swash plate.

11. A vehicle as set forth in Claim 10, further comprising a hydraulic motor mounted in the
15 transmission housing and in fluid communication with the hydraulic pump and an axle shaft mounted in and extending from the transmission housing, wherein the axle shaft is driven by the hydraulic motor.

12. The vehicle as recited in Claim 11, wherein the axle shaft is removably carried within the housing, and further comprising a sleeve piece carried by the housing, the sleeve piece being
20 driven by the hydraulic motor and releasably accepting and driving the axle shaft.

13. The vehicle as recited in Claim 12, wherein the side frame member has an opening for accepting the axle shaft.

14. The vehicle as recited in Claim 11, further comprising a center section having porting wherein the hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor are mounted to the center section and are in fluid communication via the porting.

15. The vehicle as recited in Claim 14, wherein the center section has a pump running surface
5 on which the hydraulic pump rotates and a motor running surface on which the hydraulic motor rotates, wherein the pump running surface is in a vertical plane oriented perpendicular to the side frame member and the motor running surface is in a horizontal plane.

16. The vehicle as recited in Claim 11, further comprising a motor shaft driven by the hydraulic motor, a reduction gear driven by the motor shaft, and a bull gear driven by the
10 reduction gear and drivingly linked to the axle shaft.

17. The vehicle as recited in Claim 16, wherein the motor shaft has a longitudinal axis that is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the axle shaft.

18. The vehicle as recited in Claim 9, further comprising a combustion engine for driving the hydrostatic transmission and a snow throwing auger driven by the combustion engine.

15 19. A vehicle comprising:

a vehicle frame;

a hydrostatic transmission mounted to the vehicle frame and driven by a transmission
input shaft having an attached transmission pulley;

an engine mounted to the vehicle frame and driving an output shaft having at least one
20 output pulley;

a belt connecting the output pulley to the transmission pulley; and

a cooling fan mounted on the transmission input shaft, where the transmission input shaft extends through a loop created by the belt, whereby the cooling fan and transmission are on opposite sides of the belt.

20. A vehicle as set forth in Claim 19, further comprising a hydraulic motor mounted in the transmission housing and in fluid communication with the hydraulic pump and an axle shaft mounted in and extending from the transmission housing, wherein the axle shaft is driven by the hydraulic motor.

21. The vehicle as recited in Claim 20, further comprising a center section having porting wherein the hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor are mounted to the center section and are in fluid communication via the porting.

22. The vehicle as recited in Claim 20, further comprising a motor shaft driven by the hydraulic motor, a reduction gear driven by the motor shaft, and a bull gear driven by the reduction gear and drivingly linked to the axle shaft.